



**Consortium of State Organizations of Texas Teacher Educators
Executive Board Retreat
Austin, Texas
May 22 and 23, 2007**

Janice Nath called the meeting of the Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education (CSOTTE) to order at 1:15PM, Tuesday, May 22, 2007. The board met until 4:15, Tuesday, and reconvened Wednesday at 8:20 AM. The following members were present:

Janice Nath, Chair
Susan L. Dennis, Chair Elect
Sharon Gray, Advisor
Jacel Morgan, Executive Secretary
Sherilyn Emberton, TxATE
Carole Errett, TACO
Diana Everett, TAHPERD
Stacey Edmonson, TCPEA
Ginny Fender, TCTCT

Hollis Lowery-Moore, TACTE
Brian Miller, TDFE
Debby Hopkins-Higham, TDFE
Kathy Morrison, TxATE
Connie Sabo-Risley, TACO
Pamela Johnson, TACO
Kathleen R. Vinger, TCTCT
Pamela Williford, TACTE

Introductions

Current members introduced themselves and the organizations they represent. New members, Connie Sabo-Risley, Stacey Edmonson, and Hollis Lowery-Moore, introduced themselves and were welcomed to the board.

Approval of January Minutes

Jacel Morgan distributed copies of the January minutes, which were approved with minor corrections.

Financial Report

Jacel Morgan presented the financial report. Twenty-five thousand dollars was moved from the checking account into a 5-month Certificate of Deposit. It was moved and approved to continue reinvesting excess principal and interest from the checking account into a CD until such time as the money is needed. The balance of all CSOTTE accounts is \$78,408.29. The report was approved as presented.

Budget for 2007-2008

Jacel Morgan presented the proposed budget for 2007-2008. Line items were discussed and it was decided to add \$1000 more to the "Travel SBEC Advisory Rep" category and change the name of the category to "Travel - CSOTTE Representative." The money is to be used to cover expenses incurred by the chair when on CSOTTE business. One thousand dollars from the "Miscellaneous" category was moved to the Travel category

to fund it as a \$2000 line item. "Miscellaneous" will be renamed "Investment" and will be funded as a \$1300 line item. The amended budget was unanimously adopted.

Fall 2006 CSOTTE Conference

Jacel Morgan reported that with the extra donations received for the Fall 2006 CSOTTE conference, the profit nearly doubled from previous conferences. After disbursements, a profit of \$31,687.35 was made.

Organization Dues

Jacel Morgan presented the Dues Invoice that will be sent to member organizations in June. She stated that the ability of organizations to use credit cards greatly expedites collecting fees, although there is a service charge.

Audit Committee Appointment

Janice Nath appointed Ginny Fender and Susan Dennis to meet with Jacel Morgan to audit the accounts. The committee will report their findings to the Board later in the meeting.

TACTE/SBEC/TEA Update and Discussion

Pam Williford reported information from the TACTE meeting. Senator West spoke at the meeting and said that the legislature is focusing on more stringent program accountability measures and on high-stakes testing. New SBEC board member, Christie Pogue, stated that she was very interested in learning about teacher preparation issues. It was mentioned that there is a possibility of someone from the Deans' group becoming a voting member of the SBEC board. Pam stated that although perspectives were different within different groups, there are still many areas common to all. These are the areas on which we need to focus.

Website Report

Janice Nath reported that the new website is up and running despite some glitches which had been experienced earlier. She urged all members to notify Jacel if mistakes are found; Jacel will contact Scott to make corrections. There was discussion that the list of available positions must be kept current; advertised positions should be removed after 3 months. Jacel will remind organizations after the positions have been posted for three months, so they can be either updated or removed.

Legislative Issues

Janice Nath reported on the accountability bills (HB 3421 and SB 6423) which have been of such concern. She stated that Senator West suggested that the bills would not receive action this term, but we need to continue to be vigilant as he expects these issues to resurface as attachments to other bills. There is a chance that the issues might be addressed as rule changes by SBEC. Additionally, Janice talked about the scope of the SBEC Advisory Committee. SBEC program visits were discussed and entities who have already had visits briefly explained the procedure. It was agreed that these oversight visits were beneficial for all entities.

Janice also reported on SBEC's decision to change the EC-4 certificate. The Stakeholders as a whole voted to support EC-6, although a number of its members felt strongly that EC-5 was more appropriate. The EC-4 certification level will be expanded to an EC-6 certificate beginning in 2008. SBEC's decision will move forward to the State

Board of Education (SBOE) in July for final approval. SBEC has agreed to keep the 4-8 certification level for the time being. A discussion followed Janice's report as to whether or not to continue to support an EC-5 certificate. It was suggested that, since the Stakeholders had agreed to support the EC-6 certificate, it would not be wise to now continue to fight the decision.

2007 Conference

Susan Dennis gave an update on the 2007 Fall Conference to be held in El Paso and distributed the flyers for Board members to distribute to their various organizations.

There was a discussion on a speaker or speakers for the final session. Susan will research a local keynote speaker who will end the conference on a high note.

Jacel will send a vendor's packet to all vendors who participated in last year's conference. If we have suggestions for other possible vendors we should forward the suggestions to Jacel. It was decided that probably a maximum of 10 vendors would be optimal.

Jacel reported that it has been difficult to locate appropriate institutions in Mexico to participate in the conference; a discussion followed on appropriate institutions from New Mexico. It was decided that New Mexico teacher preparation organizations would be invited and would be allowed to submit proposals. These organizations would be charged \$200 to cover expenses.

Sherilyn Emberton from TxATE reported that very few proposals had been submitted for the Breakout Sessions. It was decided to extend the proposal deadline to June 15 and that the various organizations should send an additional call for proposals to their colleagues. Roundtable discussion groups will be addressed once we see about the final number of proposals submitted.

Jacel will contact previous sponsors and anyone else who might be interested in being a sponsor about sponsorship opportunities. Susan will contact UTEP to see if they have suggestions for possible sponsors. Jacel will email members reminders about securing sponsors.

Connie Sabo-Risley from TACO stated that she would notify Jacel and Jacel would notify us about door prizes. Connie mentioned that some previous door prizes were not useable. Furthermore, it was suggested that each session have new door prize tickets to avoid calling numbers of conference participants who did not attend that particular session. TACO will research a better way to award door prizes.

Susan will contact Region 19 about suggestions for quiet musical entertainment the first evening.

The same awards that were given previously will be given at the 2007 conference. The "Friend of Teacher Education" award was discussed; Stacey Edmonson from TCPEA has a nomination form that she will send to Jacel who will forward it to the Board. All nominations are due by the September Board meeting. We were reminded that when we introduce an award recipient, we must stick to the brief scripted introduction like we did last year.

TACA and MSEPA are in charge of registration; since representatives were not present, they will be reminded of their responsibilities.

Debby Hopkins-Higham from TDFE will bring a draft of the evaluation form to the September meeting for our review.

Jacel presented the proposed menu for the conference. The Board agreed on the Border breakfast for Monday instead of a continental breakfast. The brunch menu for Tuesday will be reevaluated in September. Jacel presented food costs for various meals at various conventions in the past.

Adjournment

Janice adjourned the meeting for the evening at 4:15 PM; it was reconvened at 8:20 Wednesday morning.

Employee Evaluation Instrument

Janice explained that since an instrument was needed to evaluate the Executive Secretary and the webmaster, she would develop it and send it out for feedback so that the meeting time could be more profitable.

2008 Conference

Ginny Fender led the discussion about the 2008 Conference to be held in Austin. There was much discussion about the theme and the Board agreed on "Capitalizing on Change." A suggestion was made to have a legislative reception instead of a panel; possible legislators were discussed. Keynote speakers were discussed and included Carolyn Coil (Giftedness and Diversity); the leader from Raise Your Hand for Children, a very pro-child/pro-teacher group; the recipient of the HEB teacher award; the Disney teacher of the year; and Ron Clark. Other possible speakers will be mentioned at later meetings.

Action Plan Review and Update

The Action Plan, Attachment #8, was reviewed with particular emphasis on the second item under the heading Policy Recommendations and Advocacy. Susan will rework the item for the September meeting. Other items were discussed and it was decided to make no further changes.

Constitution Review and Update

Sharon Gray pointed out the Publicity Director's position was abolished in past sessions and it should have been removed from the Constitution. Minor wording, spelling, and grammatical changes were unanimously approved.

2007-2008 Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule for 2007-2008 was presented and accepted with minor changes. Le Tourneau University has offered video-conference sites in Dallas or Houston if members cannot come to Austin for the meetings. Janice urged members to send a representative to meetings when the Board member is unable to attend as it is vital to have a quorum at each meeting.

Report of Audit Committee

Ginny Fender reported that the books were in good order. Susan suggested that an accountant review the accounts and set up a better bookkeeping system that reflects the status for all transactions. Connie will talk to an accountant about recommendations. Up to \$1000 was approved from Miscellaneous to cover the fees to accomplish this goal.

Other Business

Jacel suggested the possibility of getting maps for walking tours in El Paso. It was decided that it was not appropriate to arrange for a bus to go to the casinos; individuals may arrange that if they so choose.

The keynote speaker for the last General Session in El Paso was discussed again. It was decided that the Superintendent of Schools would be a better choice than someone from a community college.

Representatives from community colleges still wish to become members of CSOTTE. It was suggested that they be referred to Ron Kettler as the Board had previously decided against their becoming members. However, the Board was reminded to think of other organizations that might participate; the goal is that teacher education organizations form a strong, powerful coalition.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Sharon Gray, Pam Johnson, and Kathy Morrison were recognized with clocks to thank them for their years of service on the Board. Eloise Hughes and Dee Hopkins were also leaving the Board.

Special Presentation

Susan honored Janice with a lovely clock and thanked her for her service as CSOTTE Chair for 2006-2007.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen R. Vinger, Acting CSOTTE Secretary